

From: area4enquiries
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 1:00 PM
To: info@sandyhurst.co.uk
Subject: Highways England response – M20 Road Noise

Dear Mr Bartlett

Thank you for writing to Highways England on 21 September about the level of road noise from the M20.

A-one+ works on behalf of Highways England and we are responsible for the day to day operation and maintenance of motorways and trunk roads in Kent, Sussex and a small section of Surrey.

I'm sorry to hear of the level of noise and the impact that this is having on the residents of Sandyhurst Lane and the surrounding areas. I can certainly appreciate that excess noise can be a real, unwanted nuisance and a great inconvenience for residents.

As you correctly state in your letter, the surface of the M20 in the immediate area around Sandyhurst Lane is concrete and has been retextured to increase skid resistance. The concrete surface can last for 40 years and was laid in the early 1990s, meaning the surface is now over 20 years old. We have a scheme in our five year programme, with possible works in 2021/22, when the concrete could be overlaid but this will be a very large project involving new safety barrier, drainage as well as resurfacing and is subject to funding.

I'd like to add that its Highways England policy that roads are only resurfaced for maintenance and safety reasons, not just as a noise mitigation measure. The M20 between junctions 8 and 9 is currently in good condition and does not need immediate resurfacing. As you point out, there are some small sections which have been overlaid, this has been done for maintenance and safety reasons and is not in line with any noise mitigation.

With regards to the use of noise mitigation, Highways England takes guidance from Defra (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) who produce noise maps which highlight important areas and first priority areas where traffic noise is at its highest. This information is then used to prioritise areas which require low noise surfacing or any other noise mitigating equipment.

Thank you again for contacting us and for any other queries, please contact the Highways England Customer Contact Centre. They are available 24 hours a day by phone: 0300 123 5000 or by email: info@highwaysengland.co.uk. Alternatively, you can visit the Highways England website at www.highways.gov.uk.

Kind regards,

Chris Carter
Customer and Stakeholder Liaison Assistant
Working on behalf of Highways England